

Presumptive Cancer Coverage for Firefighters

What is presumptive cancer coverage?

Presumptive cancer coverage means that under the *Workers Compensation Act*, it is presumed that a primary cancer for a fire inspector or firefighter is work related, unless proven to the contrary.

Who is eligible for this presumptive cancer coverage?

Eligible firefighters include:

- Fire inspectors
- Paid firefighters who are members of a fire department or fire brigade
- Volunteer firefighters who are members of a fire department or fire brigade

In what circumstances will a claim be covered by the WCB?

Presumptive coverage is based on the following principles:

- Specified injuries or diseases are presumed to be work-related.
- Presumption applies to specific types of cancers, provided the firefighter has been exposed to the hazards of a fire over the minimum cumulative period of service.

What are the changes to the presumptive cancer coverage?

In June 2025, the following five types of cancer have been added to the WCB coverage

ADDITIONAL TYPES OF CANCER	MINIMUM PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT
Primary site cervical cancer	10 years
Primary site ovarian cancer	10 years
Primary site penile cancer	15 years
Primary site pancreatic cancer	10 years
Primary site thyroid cancer	10 years

What does this mean?

These changes bring presumptive cancer coverage for PEI firefighters and fire inspectors in line with most Canadian provinces and territories.

What happens if a claim isn't covered?

Claims that aren't covered under the presumptive cancer coverage, before or after the date that the change comes into effect, will be assessed like any other WCB claim. The review will take into consideration each situation and the policies that apply to that situation.

Am I entitled to wage loss benefits as a volunteer firefighter?

If you are missing time from work because of an injury you sustained as a volunteer firefighter, your benefits will be calculated based on your average earnings from your regular employment. The WCB will calculate your benefits based on what best represents your loss of earnings.

I am a firefighter, and I have a work-related injury or illness. What do I do?

- See a health care provider like a doctor or nurse practitioner if you need medical care and tell that health care provider that your injury or symptoms are related to your work.
- Tell your employer about the injury as soon as possible.
- Go to the WCB website and click **File Your Claim**. That's the quickest way to start the claim process.
- Or, you can fill out the Worker's Report which is available on the WCB website, at the WCB office or from your employer.
- The Worker's Report is required whether you miss time from work, or not.

How many types of cancer are now included in the presumptive coverage?

There are now a total of 19 types included in the presumptive cancer coverage.

COVERED TYPES OF CANCER	MINIMUM PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT	COVERED TYPES OF CANCER	MINIMUM PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT
Primary site brain cancer	10 years	Primary non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	20 years
Primary site bladder cancer	15 years	Primary site testicular cancer	10 years
Primary site colorectal cancer	15 years	Primary site ureter cancer	15 years
Primary site esophageal cancer	25 years	Primary site breast cancer	10 years
Primary site leukemia	5 years	Multiple myeloma	15 years
Primary site lung cancer*	15 years	Primary site prostate cancer	15 years
Primary site kidney cancer	20 years	Primary site skin cancer	15 years
Primary site cervical cancer	10 years	Primary site pancreatic cancer	10 years
Primary site ovarian cancer	10 years	Primary site thyroid cancer	10 years
Primary site penile cancer	15 years		

* For primary site lung cancer, the presumption applies only if the firefighter has been a non-smoker for 10 consecutive years prior to the initial diagnosis.

For more information

If you have questions that aren't covered here or if you need more information, please contact the WCB's Claims and Compensation division by phone at **902-368-5680** or toll-free in Atlantic Canada at **1-800-237-5049**.

You can also reach us by email at workerservices@wcb.pe.ca or visit our website wcb.pe.ca